



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 October 2007

Current Nationwide



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- According to the *Associated Press*, the Department of Homeland Security has postponed the implementation of an already funded domestic spy satellite program until it can address privacy and legality concerns raised by Congress. (See item [7](#))
- The *Associated Press* reports that, according to confidential reports submitted to federal regulators, as the number of American laboratories that handle the world's deadliest germs and toxins has grown, so has the number of safety incidents. These labs have experienced more than 100 accidents and missing shipments since 2003. (See item [22](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: **ELEVATED**,
Cyber: **ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 2, The Associated Press* – (National) **Oil prices drop below \$80 a barrel.** Following an increase in the value of the US dollar and speculations that “oil prices have hit their highs for the year,” oil and petroleum prices dropped below \$80 a barrel. However, the news of a hurricane might spark new record prices, although “crude futures typically peak in October, and then begin a seasonal decline into winter.” Prices for crude for the November delivery dropped to \$79.53 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, gasoline price went down to \$1.9613 a gallon on NYMEX, and the heating oil price diminished to \$2.1611. On the other hand, natural gas value went up by 21.6 cents to \$7.266 per 1,000 cubic feet due to a storm in

the southeastern Gulf of Mexico, speculate analysts. An analyst disagreed with this hypothesis and argued that “if it was all about the storm, then oil would be higher, too.” Meanwhile, future traders eagerly await the inventory report from the Energy Department’s Energy Information Administration, expected to be released on Wednesday. Prognostics place the refinery use to 87.3 percent and suggest an increase of 700,000 barrels in the inventories of distillates.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/02/AR2007100200306.html>

2. *October 2, The Atlanta Business Article* – (International) **GE Energy signs wind power deal.** GE Energy announced a new contract with the Canadian company SkyPower Corp. according to which the company will provide 200 wind turbines capable of generating 300 megawatts of wind-electricity per unit- a capacity sufficient for more than 100,000 households. The Atlanta-based unit of General Electric Co., which is the top wind turbine maker in the North America, pledged to provide the turbines in 2009. According to a study performed by the Emerging Energy Research of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Canada is currently one of the world’s fastest growing wind power markets and it presents prospects of ranking in the top five by 2009.
Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2007/10/01/daily8.html>

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Chemical Industry

3. *October 2, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Hundreds evacuated in chemical spill.** Production is back to normal at welding equipment manufacturer Miller Electric in Appleton, Wisconsin after 800 employees were evacuated because of an acid spill. Two employees there were directly exposed to the hydrochloric acid on Monday and were referred to Appleton Medical Center, where they were treated and released. About 55 gallons of acid leaked at the plant after a tow motor punctured a drum containing the chemical. The acid is used to treat wastewater at the manufacturer’s paint shop.
Source: <http://wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=7156147>
4. *October 2, Charleston Daily Mail* – (West Virginia) **Trade chief hopes to fill old chemical plant sites.** The new leader of the Chemical Alliance Zone is hoping to find a chemical industry niche that will help fill West Virginia’s chemical plants. He told the local *Daily Mail*, that “the reason we’ve been losing the chemical industry is raw materials – usually ethylene – costs a couple of cents a pound in places like Kuwait vs. 30 cents a pound here.” He says the West Virginia sites have cheap energy, acrylic acid, phosgene, and the infrastructure already in place. He said he will personally pitch the state chemical industry’s strengths to Japanese companies next month when he and representatives of the West Virginia Development Office attend a chemical plant engineering show in Tokyo.
Source: <http://www.dailymail.com/story/News/2007100249/Trade-chief-hopes-to-fill-old-chemical-plant-sites/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

5. *October 1, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Vermont nuke plant says cooling tower problems should not be part of license review.** Entergy Nuclear says that federal officials should disregard the collapse of a portion of a cooling tower when considering whether to extend the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant's operating license for 20 years beyond the current license expiration year of 2012. In a letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Entergy says the cooling towers are not strictly considered "safety" equipment and so are outside the scope of federal review. The NRC had asked Entergy for any details of age-related degradation of the tower components following the August 21 collapse and gave Entergy 30 days to respond. The cooling towers are not directly associated with the nuclear side of the plant. But 2 of the 11 cells in the affected tower provide a backup emergency cooling system to the reactor. Entergy has maintained that since the towers are not involved in the nuclear side of the plant, or even with the generation of power, they are outside federal review.
Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/news/national/northeast/view.bg?articleid=1035281>

6. *October 1, Reuters* – (Arizona) **NRC begins on-site study of Arizona nuclear station.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), citing past operational problems at the Palo Verde nuclear power plant, said it began a three-week review at the power station in Arizona on Monday. The Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, located about 50 miles west of Phoenix, is the largest U.S. nuclear plant with three reactor units capable of making about 3,850 megawatts. After two weeks of inspection and study of records, a 20-member team from the NRC will take a break and then conduct a third week of on-site inspections beginning October 29. A report on the group's findings will be made public before the end of the year, the NRC said in a press statement. Despite the extra scrutiny called for by the NRC after operational lapses, "Palo Verde continues to operate safely," said a NRC Region 4 Administrator.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=bondsNews&storyID=2007-10-01T234005Z_01_N01282351_RTRIDST_0_UTILITIES-PINNACLE-PALOVERDE.XML

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *October 2, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. postpones domestic spy satellite program.** The Department of Homeland Security has postponed its plans to deploy domestic spy satellites until it can adequately address congressional questions about the legal basis of the program and existence of privacy protections for citizens. The program, which falls under the auspices of the National Applications Office, was designed to allow access to satellites-generated material concerning American territory to agencies such involved in emergency response, border control and law enforcement. It is unclear how long the program will be postponed, but it will go forward eventually, according to a department spokesman. Presently, civilians have access only to satellite material in order to monitor weather, climate, and to make maps.
Source:
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/02/us/02satellite.html?_r=3&ref=us&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

8. *October 1, Defense News* – (National) **MRAP II deadline passes.** October 1 was the deadline

for makers of mine resistant ambush-protected vehicles (MRAPs) to submit their proposals and vehicles for testing. A government solicitation to industry was posted July 31, giving vendors 60 days to submit vehicles for blast and road testing. According to a senior Marine Corps official, the military needs improved MRAPs able to move faster and better protect fighters against explosively formed penetrators (EFPs)—a type of roadside bomb. One of the competitors is Oshkosh Truck which, in collaboration with Ceradyne and Ideal Innovations, Inc. (I-3), has built the Bull vehicle, which has been tested and performed well against IED, EFP and mine blast threats, according to an Oshkosh press release. General Dynamic also presented two types of MRAPs. Other MRAP makers, who submitted proposals and vehicles for testing, are Protected Vehicles (PV) and Navistar International. The Defense Department designated the MARP II contracts as Indefinite Quantity/Indefinite Delivery in order to be able to purchase the necessary quantities depending on need. According to Senior Marine Corps officials, the MRAP II vehicles could be delivered by October or November.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3078430&C=america>

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Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

9. **(Revision)** *September 27, The Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Jet engine fire grounds Delta flight in Indy; no one hurt.** On Thursday, an airplane at the Indianapolis International Airport caught fire prior to taking off for *Hartsfield Jackson International airport* in Atlanta. The pilots of the airliner – a Delta Flight carrying 132 passengers – noticed a malfunction, which turned out to be coming from one of the engines that caught fire. Passengers were evacuated and transported back to the terminal by bus where they were booked on different flights. The cause of the fire remains unidentified. No injuries were reported.

Source:

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070927/LOCAL/709270572/1195/LOCAL18>

10. **(Revision)** *September 27, Associated Press* – (National) **Damaged train rails show vulnerability.** The FBI's suspicions that train tracks were sabotaged in Chicago sparked fears in many commuters because it revealed how vulnerable tracks are. "The tracks themselves are generally open and unguarded," said the director of the homeland security program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies noting that tracks "remain vulnerable to anyone who wishes to do something malicious." According to a report, there are "140,000 miles of track that carry millions of rail passengers every year and scores of freight trains hauling hazardous materials. Potential sabotage also poses a risk to the untold number of people who live near tracks." Following the Chicago incident, experts rushed to point to the fact that trains are one of the means used by terrorists to attack people and referred to the Madrid attacks in 2004 when 191 people were killed and more than 1,800 injured. The last rail major accident in

the U.S., in which *11 people died and hundreds were injured*, occurred in 2005 in Southern California when a train hit an SUV parked intentionally on the tracks. The Transportation Security Administration announced its intentions to increase rail security and pledged a \$110 million award for major rail systems.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070927/ap_on_re_us/railroad_sabotage;_ylt=AnWEIgR93l4JFD673gl_KYIG2ocA

11. *October 1, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **MN bridge collapse carries costly toll.** Two construction companies filed a formal complaint against the Minnesota Department of Transportation (DOT) for being “arbitrary and capricious” in their selection of the bidding company, which will rebuild the interstate bridge. The new \$234 million winning bid from Flatiron and Manson Construction was the highest and encompassed a technical score that “outranked the others,” although it presented the longest estimated time for completion. The DOT reported new numbers for the estimated costs for emergency response, site cleanup, stepped-up inspections of other spans, traffic diversions and a new bridge, totaling \$393 million. “There’s a lot of expense outside the rebuilding of the bridge,” said a Transportation Commissioner, who is also the state’s lieutenant governor. The governor’s administration is concerned about delays in funding for the bridge and requested the Transportation Contingency Appropriation Group to place the issue on its agenda for this week’s meeting. If the money does not arrive on time, the state DOT has the option to postpone other projects and channel the funds into the bridge, scheduled to be rebuilt by the end of 2008. The attorney for the losing contractors said that their complaint was bolstered by the fact that MnDOT, though under time constraints, awarded the contract to the bid with highest cost and the longest time. The winning company was announced in a public ceremony, but the final contract has not yet been signed.

Source: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8S0R6KG0&show_article=1&catnum=1

12. *October 1, Associated Press* – (National) **Court delays rules on truckers’ hours.** On Friday a federal court ordered the 90-day stay (expiring on Dec. 27) of a requirement that would reduce by one hour the time truckers can drive continuously. Last month government regulators and the trucking industry’s trade group requested that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issue longer stays of its decision that the daily driving limit be cut to 10 hours for long-haul truckers. The court-ordered rule would change that standard to 10 hours behind the wheel followed by eight hours of rest. Under the 11-hour driving limit, truckers are required to then rest for 10 hours.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8S0L2T00.htm>

13. *October 1, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Man threatens employees at Boston airport.** An Ethiopian man was arrested after he told an Air Tran employee at Boston’s Logan International airport that he had explosives and he was a member of Al Qaeda. The incident took place Saturday night when the 27 year old was checking in for a flight and supposedly became irate with the airline employee, who was questioning him “about a tag on his luggage that indicated he had been to Dubai of the United Arab Emirates.” The man pled not guilty to charges “of making a false communication of an explosive device.”

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,298840,00.html>

Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *October 2, Xinhua* – (International) **U.S. ports seek shipping alliance amid growing competition from Mexico.** Mexican and U.S. port officials have begun exploring ways of enhancing collaboration between their countries. Officials from two major U.S. West Coast ports visited Mexico in September. Increasingly, Asian freighters are choosing Mexican over American ports, even when the goods' final destination is the U.S. Short sea shipping (sending goods destined for the U.S. via smaller ships to ports in California) is of particular interest to both sides. Mexico is also currently constructing a modern megaport, which would directly compete with the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports. Currently, ocean shipping comprises just one percent of U.S.-Mexican trade.

Source: <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90778/6276016.html>

15. *October 1, PR Newswire* – (National) **Sky is no limit as Verizon Business deploys satellite network for U.S. Postal Service.** Verizon Business will provide a new custom satellite network to the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), enabling it to reliably and cost-effectively deliver voice and high-speed data to areas where wireline or wireless access is unavailable or too costly. The network, formally known as a VSAT (very small aperture terminal) satellite system, will provide point-to-point communications for about 5,000 Postal Service sites in the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico, and backup connectivity for a number of larger USPS sites. In addition, Verizon Business will provide more than 20 mobile satellite communications kits for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service's incident response vehicles. Verizon Business is providing the service in conjunction with Spacenet, a satellite network services company under a new two-year contract valued at \$25 million and known as ORB-IT (outer-space radio broadcast information technology). The contract also has an option for three two-year extensions.

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/NYM04901102007-1.htm>

Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *October 2, Reuters* – (International) **China rejects shipment of frozen U.S. sardines.** China has found poisonous bacteria in a shipment of frozen sardines prepared in the U.S. and shipped by a Japanese trading company, state media said on Tuesday. The fish, worth around \$40,000, were rejected on Saturday after checks showed they were contaminated with 'listeria monocytogens', the official Xinhua agency reported, citing an Inspection and Quarantine Bureau in eastern Shandong province. Previous checks by Chinese authorities have picked up worms in wood packaging, pork kidneys containing with a banned growth agent, sub-standard frozen potato slices, and contaminated soy beans.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSPEK329061>

17. *October 2, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **Bill would reduce meat inspections.** As one of the largest meat recalls in history unfolds, Congress is considering legislation that would reduce required federal inspections for meat that is produced by small companies and then shipped to

another state. Under a change in the 2007 farm bill approved in July by the House, only state inspections would be required for some meat products. The measure would help small meat processing companies whose products must remain in the state of origin because they lack a federal inspection stamp. Consumer advocates and a federal meat inspectors union oppose the measure, which is now under consideration in the Senate. They say that state inspection standards vary widely and that the federal inspection requirement ensures food safety. Under current law, the U.S. Department of Agriculture inspects and regulates the interstate sale of beef and poultry. Inspectors are present in many large and medium meat plants. Some states also regulate meat production, but only for products that stay within that state's jurisdiction.

Source:

http://www.chicagotribune.com/services/newspaper/printedition/tuesday/chi-meat_02oct02,0,7565723.story?coll=chi_home_top

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Water Sector

18. *October 2, Christian Science Monitor* – (National) **When water goes missing, who you gonna call?** More than half of the six billion gallons of drinking water that goes unaccounted for each day can be attributed to leaking water pipes. In several areas, particularly those undergoing an extended drought or development boom, utilities are beginning to require checks for leaks before granting water-withdrawal permits. Part of the problem with the nation's water system is that it was built in three stages: "the turn of the 20th century, the roaring '20s, and right after World War II." The American Water Works Association estimates that \$250 billion needs to be spent over the next 20-30 years in order to modernize and repair the nation's waterworks. Currently, federal and state funding generally goes to ensuring that water is safe and drinkable, not "maintaining infrastructure or leak detection." Currently, just one percent of utility districts look for hidden leaks. This is changing in several areas throughout the country, notably in the South, which has been experiencing water shortages.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/1002/p03s03-ussc.html>

19. *October 2, New York Times* – (New York) **City agrees to help regulate Delaware River by releasing water from reservoirs.** Under intense pressure from anglers, environmentalists and angry residents of downstream communities devastated by floods three years in a row, New York City has agreed to change the way it operates its Delaware River reservoirs. Yesterday the city began measures to release up to 35 million gallons a day from three of its largest reservoirs to maintain regular temperatures and water levels in the Delaware River. Many fly fishermen supported the new plan, saying it would protect the river's brown and rainbow trout, which attract fishermen from around the world and have become an important part of the local economy. Some environmentalists also supported the plan. However, many residents of riverside communities in four states along the 330 miles of the Delaware are unhappy with the plan and critical of the way the changes were accepted in secret at a meeting last week of representatives of New York City and the four states: New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania. They said the plan would do little to prevent or even mitigate the kind of catastrophic floods that swept down the river in 2004, 2005 and 2006, causing several deaths and millions of dollars in property damage. Groups have collected 12,000 signatures demanding that New York City permanently lower the levels of the Cannonsville, Pepacton

and Neversink Reservoirs to 80 percent of capacity so that storm-water runoff can have a place to go rather than charging down the river in flash floods. They said such measures would have lessened the effects of the last three floods.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/02/nyregion/02water.html?_r=2&ref=nyregion&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

20. *September 29, 11 Alive News, Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Outdoor watering banned in N. Ga.** On Friday, the State Drought Response Committee handed down new regulations that ban outdoor watering across 61 counties in north Georgia. The director of the state's Environmental Protection Division said that, without the ban, taps in Northern Georgia could run dry as soon as the end of the year. She added that the outdoor watering ban just announced may not be enough to stave off the drought problem, and that the usual exemptions may need to be suspended. If that happens, car washes, homeowners who plant new sod and others will no longer be able to use water as they have under previous outdoor watering restrictions.

Source: http://www.11alive.com/news/article_news.aspx?storyid=103847

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

21. *October 2, The Billings Gazette* – (National; International) **Ban on Canadian game lifted.** After stopping hunter-killed wild birds from Saskatchewan at the Canadian border last weekend, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has lifted its ban and hunters can once again bring harvested upland birds and waterfowl into the U.S. The import ban was put in place Friday in the wake of an outbreak of avian influenza H7N3 that was discovered Thursday in a poultry farm near Regina. The USDA banned imports on all poultry and poultry products from the province, including wild birds taken by hunters. All commercial shipments of unprocessed avian products from Saskatchewan are still banned. The avian influenza outbreak hit about 100 chickens at a poultry operation near Regina. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency quarantined the facility and killed the remaining chickens there. While avian influenza H7N3 is highly pathogenic, it is different from the H5N1 strain that has killed 150 people worldwide. Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2007/10/02/news/state/31-gamebird.txt>

22. *October 2, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. labs mishandling deadly germs.** American laboratories handling the world's deadliest germs and toxins have experienced more than 100 accidents and missing shipments since 2003, and the number is increasing steadily as more labs across the country are approved to do the work. No one died, and regulators said the public was never at risk during these incidents. However, the documented cases reflect poorly on procedures and oversight at high-security labs, some of which work with organisms and poisons so dangerous that the illnesses they cause have no cure. In some cases, labs have failed to report accidents as required by law. The mishaps include workers bitten or scratched by infected animals, skin cuts, needle sticks and more, according to a review by *The Associated Press* (AP) of confidential reports submitted to federal regulators. The documents describe accidents involving anthrax, bird flu virus, monkeypox and plague-causing bacteria at 44 labs in 24 states. More than two-dozen incidents were still under investigation. As the number of labs approved by the government to handle the deadliest substances has nearly doubled to 409

since 2004, the number of accidents has risen steadily. Through August, the most recent period covered in the reports obtained by the AP, labs reported 36 accidents and lost shipments during 2007 — nearly double the number reported during all of 2004. The dramatic expansion of the lab network began when President Bush initiated an upgrade of the nation's bio-warfare defense program five years ago. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which funds much of the lab research and construction, spent about \$41 million on bio-defense labs in 2001. By last year, the spending had risen to \$1.6 billion.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071002/ap_on_he_me/mishandling_germs;_ylt=A13NXsWN1ebImWGGP

23. *October 1, Agence France Presse* – (International) **Doctors hopeful of controlling Ebola outbreak in DR Congo.** Health experts are slowly bringing under control an outbreak of the feared Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Doctors Without Borders (MSF) aid group said Monday. Experts are most worried about the possible spread of the hemorrhagic fever in isolated villages in West Kasai province in the center of the country. Some 176 people have died from Ebola and related illnesses such as Shingella, malaria and typhoid fever since May, according to a WHO toll. However, the number of admissions to an isolation unit in Kampungu, a village of 9,000 people which is the epicenter of the outbreak, is down from previous weeks, according to the aid group. “We are close to controlling the Ebola outbreak. But we remain vigilant as the virus is still circulating in some of the neighboring villages,” said a Doctors Without Borders epidemiologist.

Source: http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5ghjE-T4h8ZBy_VAU_HbMLOXg_wOA

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Government Facilities Sector

24. *October 1, The Standard-Times* – (Massachusetts) **Man arrested after landing small plane at Otis Air Base.** Massachusetts state police arrested a 26-year-old pilot after he landed his single-engine Cessna 172 Skyhawk at Otis Air Base. According to the spokesman for the 102nd Fighter Wing, the pilot told security officers that the landing was “because he was lost and low on fuel.” Police arrived after questioning “deteriorated,” and the pilot was charged with “trespassing, disorderly conduct, and two counts of possessing a dangerous weapon, double-edged knives.” Civilians generally make unauthorized landings several times each year, mostly due to mechanical difficulties.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2007/10/01/man_arrested_after_landing_small_plane_at_otis_air_base/

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *October 1, CNHI News Service* – (National) **Emergency managers stress partnerships, discuss lessons learned.** Representatives from 50 states participated in the National Emergency Management Association's Annual Conference in Oklahoma City which ended

Monday. “Preparedness and response are not just federal issues, they have to start at local levels,” said the director of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and president of the National Emergency Management Association. The administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also highlighted the importance of “regionalization in response efforts for disasters.” The FEMA official announced 180 new positions for the agency out of which 150 will pertain to regional programs. The executive director of the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism in Oklahoma City also announced a Web page for emergency managers, who can exchange ideas and lessons learned from a disaster in a comfortable environment and build up an inter-regional partnership. Source: http://www.cnhins.com/siteSearch/local_story_274180754.html

26. *October 1, AFP* – (National) **US emergency services ill-prepared to help kids: study.**

According to a study released in the October issue of the journal *Pediatrics*, child-specific plans are very often not part of emergency plans. Only 248 out of 1,318 emergency services had definite provisions for child care, reported the head researcher from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Arkansas Children's Hospital. He further stated that “child-specific plans are needed because children are more and more frequently the target of terrorist attacks and have different medical needs and responses to adults.” Providing for children in emergency plans is challenging “because of the different characteristics shown by different age groups,” said the researcher. The study was prompted by attacks where children were the main target, such as the Oklahoma City bombings in 1995 and the Beslan school siege in Russia in 2004. The study also showed that less than one-third (31.8 percent) of the emergency services with a written plan had provisions for responding to a mass casualty event at a school or other child care facility. Similarly, only one quarter of the participants claimed that their response plans had provisions for “reuniting children with their parents or guardians in the aftermath of a crisis.” The study analyzed information provided by 3,700 ambulances services across the nation, which were surveyed between November 2004 and March 2005.

Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5jXccMxwKcP16vIFZBw1b-maw1x5Q>

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Information Technology

27. *October 2, Associated Press* – (National) **Online videos may be conduits for viruses.** As anti-spam technology improves, hackers are finding new vehicles to deliver their malicious code. Some could be embedded in online video players, according to a report on Internet threats released Tuesday by the Georgia Tech Information Security Center as it holds its annual summit, at which more than 300 scholars and security experts met to discuss emerging threats for 2008. With computer users getting wiser to e-mail scams, malicious hackers are looking for sneakier ways to spread the codes. Over the past few years, hackers have moved from sending their spam in text-based messages to more devious means, embedding them in images or disguised as Portable Document Format, or PDF files. While there have been few reported cases of video-related hacking to date, “the next logical step seems to be the media players,” one expert said.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071002/ap_on_hi_te/cybersecurity;_ylt=Ao2D27JiO_KqSkcDjcO2E22s0NUE

28. *October 1, Business Wire* – (National) **Alion introduces design tool to help protect ships, buildings, vehicles and infrastructure from threats.** Alion Science and Technology, a technology solutions company, today announced the release of a standalone version of MOTISS™, a software application that helps designers of large structures, including ships and buildings, improve defenses against threats. MOTISS (Measure of Total Integrated System Survivability) has been used for several years by Alion engineers on numerous naval ships. The program helps designers build in resistance to a variety of threats, which can include fire, explosions and other hazards, said an Alion representative, adding that the software has numerous applications, including ship design, heavy manufacturing and the design of buildings, large facilities and infrastructure.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/071001/20071001005160.html?v=1>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

29. *October 1, San Francisco Gate* – (National) **Our fraying internet infrastructure.** According to a senior fellow at UC San Diego and at the Annenberg Center for Communication at USC, the U.S. has dropped from fourth place to 15th place on the broadband ranking kept by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. He argues that the supply of broadband has not kept pace with accelerating demand, and that this will have an adverse affect on our economy, putting us at a disadvantage in the global marketplace. “Our economy is dependent upon broadband. Without investments in broadband infrastructure - not only will consumers suffer - but we will experience a creeping lack of competitiveness, job loss and the gradual ceding of our Internet leadership to other nations,” he said.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/10/01/EDGBSAN5C.DTL>

30. *October 1, DHS.gov* – (National) **Remarks of Cyber-security and Communications Assistant Secretary.** The DHS’s Cyber Security and Communications Assistant Secretary spoke at the National Cyber Security Awareness Month summit on Monday. He said that DHS has made great progress in developing a national preparedness and deterrence strategy and enhancing operational cyber response capabilities. He referenced the DHS-sponsored March 2008 National Cyber Exercise, or Cyber Storm II, which follows the highly successful Cyber Storm I held in February 2006. The exercise examines response and coordination mechanisms against a simulated cyber event affecting international, federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector. He also mentioned “Einstein,” an early warning system for federal computer networks. Einstein monitors participating agencies’ network gateways for traffic patterns that indicate the presence of computer worms or other unwanted traffic. By collecting traffic information at agency gateways, Einstein gives government analysts and participating

agencies a big-picture view, synthesized of potentially malicious activity across federal networks.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1191270671928.shtm

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

31. *October 1, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Rock slab hits Lake Powell boat; 1 dead, 1 missing.** One person is dead and a second missing after a 250 square foot rock slab broke off of a sandstone arch at Lake Powell and smashed onto a boat. The National Park Service said the slab fell onto the boat's bow, capsizing it. Other boaters discovered the accident Friday, saying they had passed the craft 20 minutes earlier in Lake Canyon and had waved to the two people on board. Rangers recovered the body of a woman. Divers were called to the site to find the second victim.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,298766,00.html>

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Dams Sector

32. *October 2, MediaNews* – (California) **Levee fix could save city on flood costs.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will soon release a new flood map for the city of San Mateo, California. The new map indicates that, without levee repairs, approximately 2,600 homes will need to purchase flood insurance. Completely removing all of the residences from the FEMA map would cost around \$32.5 million, but removing a significant portion of the residents from the map could be done with repairs totaling just \$2.6 million.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_7060596

33. *October 2, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Removal of dam's toxic mud begins today.** Atlantic Richfield Co. started on Tuesday a two-year project worth \$100 million to remove toxic mud containing arsenic and copper from the Milltown Dam on the Clark Fork River. According to estimates, the company will remove 2.2 million cubic yards of mud, which will be transported by train to a waste depository site near Anaconda. Opportunity's residents, who live near the site, voiced their opposition to the mud disposal, but an Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) spokeswoman argued that the mud will not present any risk at the new site because it will be placed on dry land. She further explained that "when deprived of oxygen in a river, arsenic can move easily into groundwater, but that will not be an issue at Opportunity." The residents' concerns were prompted by high arsenic levels unveiled near Opportunity even though when tested, the water collected from Opportunity did not show arsenic levels unsafe for humans. The EPA project manager stated that the company will remove only the most contaminated mud, leaving the rest to erode over the years.

Source:

<http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2007/10/02/news/regional/3ac51eca8f5afe3287257367007d029f.txt>

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